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What Things Protestants Believe.

WHAT THINGS PROTESTANTS BELIEVE.

BY

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BISHOP OF CASHEL AND WATERFORD.

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1882.

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WHAT THINGS PROTESTANTS BELIEVE.

It is sometimes thought by our Roman Catholic neighbours that Protestants do not believe anything—that our only religion is to oppose them in what they believe, and to condemn what their Church teaches.

Now, I want to show that this is a great mistake. If there was nothing in the world for us to oppose, our religion would still be what it is now—a firm belief in great Christian truths, and a teaching of great Christian duties.

I wish to tell what these things are which we believe and teach; and I hope that our Roman

Catholic neighbours will see what they are, and then they will understand what is really the religion of Protestants.

Here, then, is what it is:—

We believe all that is taught in the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments; and we acknowledge these Holy Scriptures to contain the entire revelation from God to man, as to what we are to believe and what we are to do. We therefore hold it to be the duty of all professing Christians, laity as well as clergy, poor as well as rich, to read the Scriptures continually, and to see for themselves what things they teach.

We believe the doctrines which are contained in the three Creeds of the ancient Christian Church —the Apostles' Creed, the Nicene Creed, and the *Athanasian Creed*, because they all can be very

clearly proved by the testimony of the Holy Scriptures.

We believe in one God—the Almighty Creator and Preserver of all things—and we acknowledge three Divine Persons in that one God—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost.

We believe that the Eternal Son of God took man's nature upon him, that He was born in that human nature of the blessed Virgin Mary, that He lived and died here upon the earth, rose from the dead, and ascended into heaven.

We believe that when He died it was for the sins of men, that He bore those sins upon Himself on the cross, and that by His death He has made, once and for ever, a full and complete satisfaction for sin.

We believe that all who truly repent and turn in earnest to God, and put their faith in

the Lord Jesus Christ as their Saviour, a
trust in the redemption which He has made,
putting away their sins, are freely and entir
forgiven for His sake, without any merit
deserving of their own.

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ appe
in the presence of God as the High Priest a
Intercessor for His people, to obtain for th
every blessing which they need, and especia
the gift of the Holy Spirit, to teach, and comfo
and sanctify their hearts and minds.

We believe that God the Holy Spirit is t
Almighty Being, by whose power all true religi
is planted and kept alive in the hearts of a
persons, and that it is only as He works in
that we can have any right feeling towards G
or do anything that is really good.

We believe that all who truly receive t

Lord Jesus Christ to be their Saviour, are bound by the love which He showed them, and by their love and gratitude to Him in return, to serve Him as their heavenly Master, to do His commandments, and to seek after holiness and righteousness of life. And we believe that if any man does not live in this way, he has no right to be looked upon as a true Christian man.

We believe that where this religion exists in the heart, it will lead a man to act faithfully and honestly in all his dealings with his fellow-men, to be obedient to all who are over him in authority, to be kind to the poor and afflicted according as he has opportunity, and to live at peace and goodwill towards all men.

We believe that our Lord Jesus Christ appointed two sacraments, Baptism and the Lord's

Supper, to be outward and visible signs a
means of blessing to all those who receive a
make use of them in a right spirit.

We believe Baptism by water, in the na
of the Father, and of the Son, and of the H
Ghost, to be the outward sign by which pers
are admitted into the Christian Church ; t
all who are baptised are bound by that token
be the true followers of the Lord Jesus Chri
and that it is a pledge to all who believe
Him as their Saviour, that they are born of
Holy Spirit, are the children of God, and
heirs of eternal life.

We believe the Lord's Supper to be appoin
by our Lord Jesus Christ in remembrance
His death, and that when Christians eat t
bread, and drink this wine, as the Lord co
manded, they profess their faith in His bo

broken for them upon the cross, and His blood shed for the forgiveness of their sins, and we believe that the bread and wine thus given and received, are a token of the love of our Lord Jesus Christ to every one of His true disciples, and so are the means of strengthening their faith in Him.

We believe that when the soul leaves the body at death, if it has been saved through the grace of God, it goes to the Lord Jesus to be with Him in holy and happy rest, free from all sin and suffering, to enjoy His blessed presence; and that if it has not been saved, it is shut out from His presence, without any hope of ever receiving mercy.

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ, the Blessed and Eternal Son of God, shall yet come from heaven in His glory, and raise the bodies

of His people from their graves, and make
in body and soul together partakers of ble
for ever in His Kingdom. And we believe
He will raise the bodies of the ungodly
from the dead, that they may receive from
their final sentence, and depart into everla
condemnation.

These are the chief things which we P
tants believe and teach; this is our reli
We ask our Roman Catholic neighbou
consider whether it is not true Christia
Is there anything wrong or false in this
is quite true that there are some things
we refuse to believe, because the Holy Scri
does not contain them; and there are
things which we entirely reject, because
are directly contrary to Holy Scripture.
take these things which I have mention

say are they not true religion. And if any man believes and follows these things, will he not be happy in his own mind, and will he not be the means of making others happy who are about him? If these principles prevail among any people, will they not, through the blessing of God, make that people to be happy and prosperous? Wherever this religion is truly felt in the heart, and followed in the life, it is sure to bring a blessing.